

generally, poverty is the outcome of poverty—the result of a lack of advantages in possessions. birth or character which may enable a man to bargain advantageously with other men. His helplessness is woefully increased should he be constitutionally idle. should he be lacking. that is to say, in the impulse to industry, or should he be oppressed by the tyranny of other impulses. such as the passion for drink or for gambling. which fatally affect the impulse to industry. The misery of helplessness reaches its climax in unemployment: this (as will be seen in the following chapter) may plausibly be ascribed to a slackening, or interruption, in the current of exchange—of the changing of goods for goods or goods for services—which, like a stream of electricity, turns the wheels of modern economic life. Such remedies as may be found for it must have the effect of stimulating this current. Poverty that is deepened by defects of impulse demands remedies of greater complexity. The enquiries of Booth and Rowntree have shown that about one per cent. of the population is composed of wastrels—persons to whom work is constitutionally repugnant. This is perhaps, not a large proportion of infructuous buds on the tree of life. and these degenerates, it may be remarked, are born in all classes of society. How many sons of the rich might we not find idling through their summers in the London parks were

they v not
maintained by the charity of their
relations !
Men of this disposition will only work
under
strict compulsion : so they may acquire
habits of
industry. but these will rarely become
so strong
as to survive in conditions of freedom.
Far more
numerous are those who lack the
comforts and
decencies of life because their impulse
to industry
is clogged by the passions for drink or
gambling.